



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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For Immediate Release

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Park Authority Master Planning Process Begins for Old Colchester Park and Preserve and Mason Neck West Park

The Fairfax County Park Authority has begun a public master planning process to guide future use of two Mason Neck parks - Old Colchester Park and Preserve and Mason Neck West Park. These two parks are located within one quarter mile of each other on Colchester Road in Lorton, VA and offer a variety of park experiences. The Park Authority invites the public to lend its voice to the decision-making process.

A Public Information Meeting will be held on March 19, 2014 at Gunston Elementary School located at 10100 Gunston Road in Lorton. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and feature a presentation about the sites' existing conditions and the park master planning process. Following this presentation, an informal moderated public discussion session will be held to identify community concerns, answer questions, and receive suggestions for future park features. This meeting allows the public to identify issues and uses to be considered by the Park Authority in developing the draft master plans.

Old Colchester Park and Preserve, located at 10646 Old Colchester Road, is largely undeveloped. This 141-acre park was acquired primarily through the Federal Lands to Parks Program in 2007 with several smaller adjacent parcels acquired over the ensuing years. This property contains a variety of forest/plant communities and animal species, some of which are considered to be rare. The site's resources also include a variety of archaeological sites that help tell the story of our county's past. Planning for Old Colchester Park and Preserve will emphasize protection of these resources.

Mason Neck West Park is located at 10418 Old Colchester Road. The original park consisted of 14 acres that were acquired in 1983. Mason Neck West Park is developed with an athletic focus in keeping with a park master plan approved in 1984. A 65' diamond field, a multi-use court, and two tennis courts help to meet the athletic needs of the local community. In 2007, an additional 31.5 acres was acquired, which has not been master planned. The master plan process will examine this added land and new opportunities to serve the community as well as options to enhance existing facilities.

Visit our website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/ocpp-mnw.htm> for more information. To provide comments throughout the planning process or for further information on the master plan process for Old Colchester Park and Preserve and/or Mason Neck West Park, contact Gayle Hooper, project manager, Park Planning Branch, Planning and Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority at 703-324-8725 or through parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.